

Remarks/Arguments

In response to the August 29, 2003 Office Action, the Applicants elected claims 1-23 in a response that was mailed October 2, 2003. On October 16, 2003, the Examiner mailed a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, indicating that the text of claims 24-27 was missing. Applicants submit a compliant response that includes the text of claims 24-27.

This application includes original claims 1-23. The Applicants have elected to prosecute original claims 1-23 in response to the restriction requirement imposed in the Office Action.

Original claims 24-27 have been withdrawn without prejudice to presenting these claims in a divisional or continuation application. In addition, the election of claims 1-23 is made with traverse, and Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims 24-27, in original or amended form, in view of the later prosecution of this application.

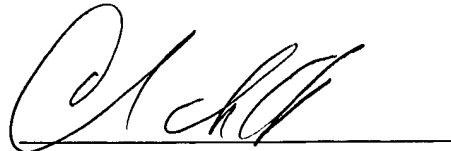
No extension of time is believed necessary for this response. However, any extension of time which may be required for this response is hereby petitioned. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required for this paper to Deposit Account Number 13-3250, Order No. 36287-00900.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and prompt notification thereof is requested. If the prosecution of this application can be advanced by a telephone conference, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (212) 530-5734.

PATENT

Docket No.: 36287-00900

Respectfully submitted,
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, L.L.P.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris L. Holm", is written over a horizontal line.

Chris L. Holm
Reg. No.: 39,227

October 27, 2003

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